REMARKS

Claim 1 is now amended. As exemplified in the specification, it recites

A charging system comprising:

a first client apparatus [4];

a second client apparatus [4];

a server apparatus [2] *which provides at least one service to said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus via a network;*

a charging apparatus [5] *connected to said network in order to a charge said first client apparatus and said second client apparatus with respect to the provision of said at least one service;*

a first processing apparatus [3A, 3B, 3C] *which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said first client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said first client apparatus via said first processing apparatuses; and*

a second processing apparatus [3B, 3C, 3A] *which is connected to said network in order to control the provision of said at least one service from said server apparatus to said second client apparatus and accumulate information for charging by said charging apparatus with respect to said at least one service when said at least one service is provided to said second client apparatus via said second processing apparatuses; and*

a third processing apparatus [6] *which comprises a cyclic unit* [90] *which includes a circulation list specifying a circulation order and which circulates from said third processing apparatus to said first processing apparatus, from said first processing apparatus to said second processing apparatus, and from said second processing apparatus to said third processing apparatus via said network in accordance with said circulation order in order to collect the information for charging accumulated in said first processing apparatus and said second processing apparatus.*

Claims 1-16 were rejected under §103 over Matsumoto '332 in view of Keeler '130, newly cited and applied for disclosing circulation. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Keeler is concerned with identifying users on a network (col. 2, line 2), and to do this Keeler accumulates data and correlates data on individual users (col. 1, lines 35-65) by setting up a library of information about users, grouped by user (col. 2, lines 60-64) so that all the information on any user is easy to reach.

(1) The Examiner asserts that the features of the Applicants' claims are anticipated, but does not identify *which* features of Keeler are relied upon. In particular, the Applicants' claimed list is asserted to be disclosed by Keeler—but what is it? Keeler has a great many features, and the Applicants do not know which one is asserted to anticipate; they cannot respond to the rejection.

(2) The claimed list circulates. No *circulating* list is seen in the applied text.

The Examiner is invited to consider the attached sketch. The lower portion illustrates that the cyclic unit circulates *between* the first and the second processing apparatus (either being exemplified by 3A, 3B, or 3C in Fig. 1) as well as between those processing units and the third processing unit (exemplified by the managing apparatus 6 in Fig. 1), while the upper portion represents the prior art.

(3) The amended claim further recites that the list circulates among three processing apparatuses in a specific fashion, namely, from the third, then sequentially to the other two, then back to the third. This feature is not disclosed in the references.

(4) The asserted motivation is respectfully traversed. The Examiner asserts that modifying Matsumoto to include Keeler's data collection would be obvious "to define the order [of] data extraction" but does not say why such a definition (not admitted) would be advantageous.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bromer

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Date

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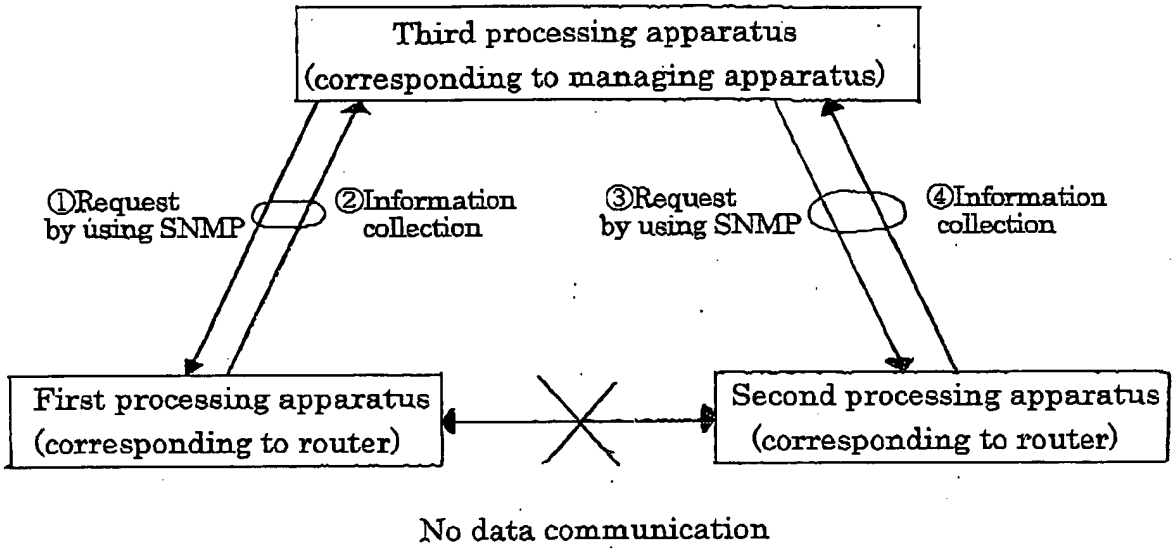
Attachment 2 : Reference Drawing for Remarks

【References】



No data communication